AFOSR Final Progress Report – 2005

CHSSI: Scalable Software for Bridging Atomistic and Continuum Simulations

(Grant # F49620-02-1-0190)

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Objectives:

The final developments of a scalable mesoscale dynamics simulation TANTALUS are summarized.

Status of Effort:

The primary effort has been on the development of massively parallel simulation codes capable of modeling both solid and viscous materials at the meso-scale. The construction of a full 3D-spatial decomposition parallel algorithm has been tested and completed. The inclusion of the ES (elastic solid) formulation within the 3D spatial decomposition has been completed. The Alpha software test was completed in June, 2003 with all CTP's met. Code development is on schedule and ongoing. The Best test was completed in July, 2004 with all requirements met. The project was accomplished successfully.

Accomplishments/New Findings:

A highly scalable spatial decomposition algorithm designed for meso-scopic simulation has been developed and tested. The core parallel architecture employs a combination cell-code/spatial decomposition algorithm that is designed to be automatically generated and optimized. Scalability tests indicate excellent scaling over system sizes on the order of a million mesoparticles over 216 processors. With the fact that one meso particle represents 100-1000 actual molecules, and that TANTALUS can model systems on the order of a microsecond on large platforms, the real time viability of attaining macro-scale spatial and temporal phenomena are now possible.

In Fig. 1, the scaling results for a large meso-scopic system up to 216 processors are excellent. A new 6 way communication scheme has recently been implemented within the spatial decomposition algorithm. With this new communication sequence, the cost of processors communication is almost nil. System sizes requiring 1000 processors and beyond are now feasible.

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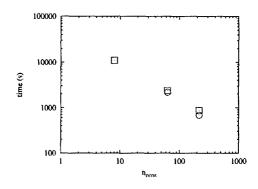


Fig. 1. Scaling results for TANTALUS. The ratio t(2n)/t(n)=1.7.

Additionally, in order to construct a robust micro-meso feedback mechanism, a reformulation of coarse-grained nanoscale fluid dynamics was required. The reformulation has been successful, and has resulted in the first computationally feasible, systematic bridged method to model complex systems as the mesoscale. Implementation of the full micro-meso interface is now underway. In Fig. 2, the complete force-force TCF for meso-water is shown using the coarse-grained TANTALUS simulation. The different curves correspond to different degrees of the coarse-grained resolution of the model.

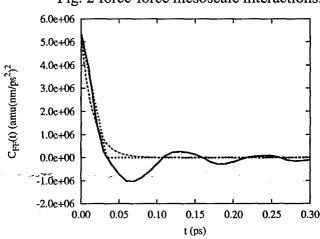


Fig. 2 force-force mesoscale interactions.

The mesoscale dynamics methodology, denoted BLOB/BLOBs, has the capability of modeling soft matter at mesoscopic levels *without* resorting to *ad-hoc* models. Length constraints do not allow for a complete description of the BLOB/BLOBS methodology, but as a summary we have already found that the transition between atomistic-level dynamics in condensed phases (characterized typically by strong "caged" correlations in particle velocities) to continuum-level fluid dynamics (where no molecular-level structure is resolved) occurs through a well defined mesoscopic regime where the dynamics contains characteristics of both. Fig. 3 show a mesoscale BLOB particle employing the EM elastic-mesh designed to model elastic solids. The mesoparticle is over 100 nm in diameter and is immersed in over 1,000,000 meso-solvent particles. The solvent is not shown for clarity.

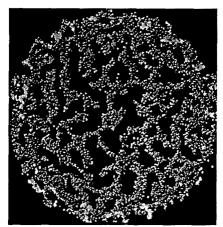


Fig. 3. A BLOB mesoparticle employing TANTALUS.

Large scale simulations employing the viscous BLOB and elastic EM model have been performed over 216 processors. The present system is designed to examine long wavelength oscillations in thin elastic membrane structures. The long time-scales attainable with the mesoscale TANTALUS simulation allow for examine of properties not accessible with MD. Simulation snapshots are shown Fig. 4.

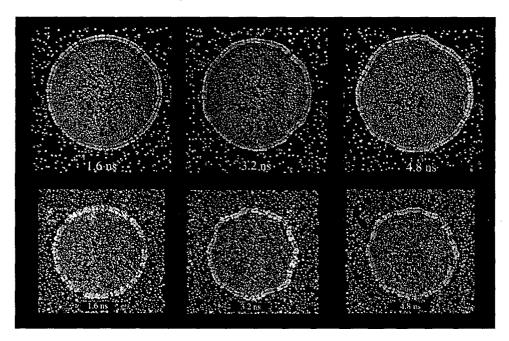


Fig. 4. Snapshots of an elastic solid membrane Immersed in a meso-solvent.

Work has already begun on applying TANTALUS to examine Ionic Liquids (Ils). The preliminary micro-scale parameterization sequence has already indicated that these systems exhibit long wavelength phenomena amenable to the TANTALUS mesoscale simulation methodology. In Fig. 5, are the dynamical resolutions of mesoscopic representations of and IL fluid.

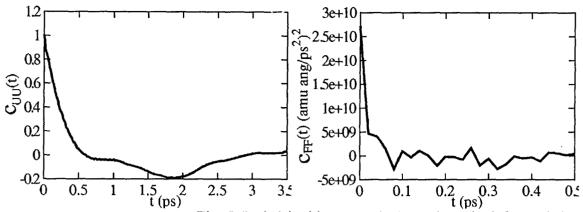


Fig. 5. Ionic Liquid mesoscale dynamics. The left panel shows The velocity-velocity correlations while the right shows the Force-force correlations.

TANTALUS has recently passed the BETA software test (July,2004). Scaling results over 216 processors on all platforms were perfect. An additional user manual has been constructed. New findings have been related to the effects of long time thermal deformations on elastic systems immersed in viscous solvents.

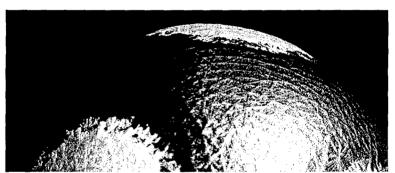


Fig. 6. Line tension perturbations in an elastic vesicle.

In Fig. 6 we show recent results where TANTALUS has been employed to examine mesoscale line-tension on elastic vesicle of diameter of 20 micrometers. Extensions to elastic filaments in viscous solvents are now underway.

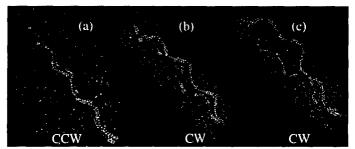


Fig. 7. Elastic filaments in a meso-solvent.

In Fig. 7, snapshot of rotating elastic filaments in a meso-solvent employing TANTALUS show interesting meso-hydrodynamic coupling to the elastic deformations.

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Jian Zhou (Postdoc)
Stephanie Atherton (Graduate)
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Publications Related to Project:

None. (This project is not about publications, but about software development.)

Interactions/Transitions Related to Project:

(a) Participation/Presentations at Meetings, Conferences, Seminars, etc.

None.

(b) Consulting/Advisory Functions

Gaussian, Inc.

(c) Transitions

The code will be distributed through the DoD CHSSI Program to DoD researchers when requested.

New Discoveries, Inventions, Patents

None

Honors/Awards:

None

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A highly parallel simulation software capable of modeling complex systems at the mesoscale		
was developed and tested. The scaling of the simulation computer code, called TANTALUS, was		
found to be excellent, due to the novel spatial decomposition algorithm that was developed.		
TANTALUS was employed to examine a number of complex systems as demonstration projects.		
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15. SUBJECT TERMS		

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98) Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

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